

Delivers Opening Statement at Committee Mark-Up

July 16, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (LA-03) delivered an opening statement at a House Energy and Commerce Committee mark-up of health care reform legislation. Following is the text of his statement.

"I am committed to passing health care reform that lowers costs and improves quality for all Americans.

"I sit here today ready to work with Chairman Waxman, Ranking Member Barton and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

"Our goal is the same.

"The skyrocketing cost of health care is not only bankrupting American families and businesses - it is leading this country down a path to fiscal disaster.

"Our current system is riddled with inefficiencies and waste. Misaligned incentives increase costs and fail to reward high quality care.

"However, we cannot fix these problems by simply pouring more money into a broken system.

"Here is what we must do:

- Find every penny of savings within our current public programs and ensure we get more value for every health care dollar we spend;**
- Be more aggressive in implementing innovative delivery reforms to bend the cost curve; and,**
- Provide assistance for individuals, families and small businesses to help them purchase health care without bankrupting the federal government.**

"Over the past several months, Blue Dogs have put forth substantive policies in order to achieve common-sense and bipartisan health care reform. We look forward to working through the markup to incorporate them.

"We have an historic opportunity to transform our health care system into one that meets the needs of all Americans. We cannot pass up this moment without fundamentally changing the incentives in our system to reward high quality, efficient health care."

[Click here](#) to view the Blue Dog health care principles.

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